

November 21, 2002

**Public Notice for 401 Certification**  
**California Department of Transportation Highway 128 – Post Mile 39.95**  
**Culvert Repair Project, WDID No. 1B02119WNME**  
Mendocino County

On July 29, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Highway 128 Post Mile 39.95 Culvert Repair Project on John Hatt Creek, tributary to Beebe Creek thence Navarro River in Mendocino County. The application was deemed complete on August 26, 2002. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with John Hatt Creek and the Navarro River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.50.

The proposed project is located at Post Mile 39.95 on Highway 128 near Yorkville, Mendocino County, California. The purpose of the project is to repair an existing culvert crossing by inserting a new welded steel pipe, which will serve as a culvert liner pipe.

The proposed project consists of the repair of an existing 1650mm diameter, 53-meter-long corrugated steel culvert by inserting a 1500mm diameter welded steel pipe into the existing pipe, which will serve as a culvert liner. The installation of the liner will require the placement of an excavator in the channel to jack the liner inside the existing culvert. Being that the replacement culvert will be the same length as the existing culvert, no additional fill material will be placed within the channel of the creek. However, fill material will be placed in the channel during the creation of four weir structures being installed below the culvert to facilitate fish passage.

Caltrans will improve the fish passage through the culvert by installing a series of four in-stream weirs immediately downstream of the culvert. The installation of the weirs will require excavation of the bed and bank, and may require the use of a bulldozer within the creek channel. In addition, in order to access the creek with heavy equipment, some vegetation removal may be required, but no riparian vegetation greater than 6 inches dbh will be allowed to be removed. According to the application, in order to make the culvert passable for migrating anadromous fish, steel water velocity control baffles will be welded to the interior of the culvert.

Installation of the new culvert and weirs may require draining the project area, which will be accomplished by constructing a temporary diversion dam and a temporary diversion pipe that will be sized to convey normal summer flows around the construction site. Instream work will take place between August 1 and October 15, and according to the National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Game, there is no potential for listed salmonids in John Hatt Creek during this work window.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through replanting and monitoring of all riparian trees removed during construction. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The California Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, Class 1, Section 1530 (1) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The nearest receiving water is John Hatt Creek located in Navarro River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.50.

The culvert project is scheduled to begin August 1, 2003 and end by October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at [jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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